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**Sen. Johnson to MDOT: Drive used cars,
spend \$5 million on road projects**

LANSING – Taxpayers should be up in arms over a recent proposal by the Michigan Department of Transportation to spend \$5 million of funding on new passenger vehicles for MDOT employees instead of road projects, said Sen. Shirley Johnson, R-Troy.

“The only thing more absurd than buying new vehicles for MDOT employees is the justification the department is offering,” Johnson said. “The money MDOT wants to spend on new cars could pave miles of roads in Michigan.”

MDOT’s proposal, which is expected to be approved by the State Administrative Board next week, claims the lack of approval for the \$5 million “would negatively impact their [MDOT’s] operating cost and ability to maintain state highways, bridges, maintenance operations, which would impact public safety.”

“Spending \$5 million on new cars for MDOT employees at a time when Michigan is facing a nearly \$1 billion budget deficit is irresponsible,” Johnson said. “This is shameful government waste.”

The State Administrative Board is scheduled to meet on April 20 at 11 a.m. in the Senate Appropriations Room on the third floor of the Capitol.

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